



**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 10/698,818

Filing Date: October 31, 2003

Applicants: Levi T. Thompson, et al.

Group Art Unit: 1755

Examiner: Patricia L. Hailey

Title: Carbide/Nitride Based Fuel Processing Catalysts

Attorney Docket: 2115-002542

Confirmation No. 2440

Notice of Allowance dated January 25, 2005

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**Mail Stop Issue Fee**

Director of the United States Patent  
and Trademark Office

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

Sir:

In response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance in the Notice of Allowance dated January 25, 2005, Applicants make the following observations.

Applicants respectfully acknowledge the Examiner allowing this application. With respect to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, however, Applicants respectfully submit that the elements that the Examiner asserts and the interpretation thereof for the basis for allowing this application too narrowly

define the invention. In fact, Applicants respectfully submit that the elements and their interpretation relied upon by the Examiner, and other elements found in the claims, could be characterized more broadly, and in different combinations and sub-combinations, and still present patentable subject matter. Further, Applicants' invention differs from the prior art of record by features other than the limitations cited by the Examiner.

If the Examiner would like to discuss this matter further, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,  
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SME/al